

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

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RECENT SECURITY PACT DEMONSTRATIONS AND ACTIONS

Drives to collect signatures in protest against the revision are still going strong. There have been recent peaceful demonstrations where participants went up to the Diet and registered with anti-revision groups. The May Day parade in Tokyo was a very colorful and festive affair. Many of the signs had anti revision statements and the cheers of 'Ampo' (security pact) were answered by 'hantai' (against) like a football cheering section. The other day the Diet asked professors of differing views to present their positions and Professor Ohira gave his opinions (April 1 issue) and answered questions.

Recent Christian Actions

A Christian sponsored rally against the revision was held on May 3, Constitution Day. Seven hundred attended the meetings. Rev. Mr. Kiyoshi Matsuo of Ogikubo Nishi Church, Mr. Kawakami, Socialist Party, Mr. Masahiko Sekiya of F.O.R. and Prof. Y. Iizaka addressed the rally.

YWCA sponsored an 'enlightenment movement' on the revision and collected 10,200 cards. The canvassers explained the issues in the revision and also enlisted their support against the revision. The petitions were presented to Mr. Ichiro Kiyose, Chairman of the Diet, by Mrs. Tamaki Uemura, President of the National YWCA; Mrs. Matsushita, Chairman of the Tokyo YWCA, and Mrs. Ishibashi, Secretary of the National YWCA. Mrs. Uemura and Mrs. Ishibashi also sent a statement to Prime Minister Kishi strongly expressing their hopes for correct parliamentarianism and adequate discussion of the present revision, and further urging them to consider the people's will regarding the issue.

A 'Quiet Rally' is scheduled by the YWCA for May 16 near the Diet.

MERGER NEGOTIATIONS FOR LUTHERAN BODIES PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY

The proposed merger of the Norwegian, Danish, Finnish Lutheran bodies with the Augustana Lutheran, Danish Lutheran (USA), American Finnish Lutheran and Evangelical Lutheran Church was discussed at the Last General Meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, May 2-6. Altho the new constitution will make a structural change in the ELC, decentralizing authority and giving more power to the individual churches and districts, no consistent objection was expressed. The proposed schedule is to have the constitution ratified by all bodies next year and have a constituting convention in the Fall. The Missouri Lutheran and the Lutheran Brethren are the only bodies not participating in the merger.

APPEAL TO MINISTER OF EDUCATION TO CURB JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Dr. Kozaki, Mrs. Kubuhiro and Mrs. Takegami of WCTU, Mr. Toshimichi Nakayama, Mr. Motojiro Sugiyama, former Vice-Chairman of the Diet and Mr. Tsukahara called on the Minister of Education to urge that the laws prohibiting sale of liquors and tobacco to minors be enforced. They also called on the Minister of Justice and appealed to him to strengthen enforcement of the anti-prostitution law.

OPPOSE VISIT OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER TO MEIJI SHRINE

Listed on the itinerary for the President's visit is a trip to Meiji Shrine. Since all shrines including Ise, Yasukuni and Meiji Shrines were disestablished by the occupation and further support and sponsorship was forbidden by Articles 20 and 89 of the new constitution. Consequently compulsory worship and support of shrines, which characterized pre-war Japan, was no longer required. The Constitution is against the favored treatment of any religion, yet as reported in previous issues, there is a movement toward giving the above shrines special status. Since Meiji Shrine became a religious shrine under the new law, the Executive Committee of the NCC decided to urge President Eisenhower and those planning the itinerary that plans to visit Meiji Shrine be dropped. Dr. Downs was asked to draft the following telegram which was sent to the President, National Council of Churches (USA) and the National Presbyterian Church, where the President is a member. "Japan National Council representing 70% of Japanese Protestants strongly urges cancellation of proposed visit to Meiji Shrine, fearing its use in undermining new constitutional

guarantee of separation of religion and state and in remilitarizing Japan."

Appeals were also made to Ambassador MacArthur and the Japanese Foreign Office. The NCC was given assurance by the American Embassy May 16 that the shrine authorities have given their assurances that no religious ceremonies will be held. The President will be merely paying respects to Emperor Meiji during whose reign friendly relations with the USA began. At the NCC executive meeting on May 18 it was decided to approve the visit of the President to the Shrine since a religious ceremony will not be held.

ASIA TRIP BRINGS SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS

"The Hong Kong meeting of the Working Committee of the East Asia Christian Conference, April 20-25, and our conversations with leaders in Bangkok and Hong Kong led to highly significant decisions relating to the future use of mass communications in evangelism in Asia and inter-country cooperation in these areas," reported Mathew S. Ogawa, Executive Director of AVACO, after a two weeks' trip to various parts of Southeast Asia.

Mr. Ogawa attended the EACC meeting as Director of the East Asia Christian Mass Communication Committee. It was decided to accept the EACMCC as the committee on radio and visual aids related to the East Asia Christian Conference. In addition, Mr. Ogawa was appointed Staff Secretary of EACC for mass communication. The Working Committee also studied the Southeast Asia Radio Project, a proposal to broadcast, by shortwave, Christian radio programs directed initially to Chinese minority groups in the countries of Southeast Asia. The committee noted this program with approval, as related to the EACMCC, although not related to the EACC.

Initial plans for the Southeast Asia Radio Project call for the establishment of a 20 KW shortwave transmitter at Dumaguete City in the Philippines. Programs produced in Bangkok, Hong Kong, and perhaps other centers, will be sent to the Philippines on tape and broadcast from there to the appropriate target countries. Followup of the broadcasts will be conducted locally by Chinese Christian congregations. The three directors of the SEA Radio Project are: Mr. Ogawa, Rev. Mr. John Muilenberg, Hong Kong, and Dr. G. P. Charles of Burma.

MASS COMMUNICATION EVANGELISM EXPERIMENT SUCCESSFUL

A recent report from Rev. Toshio Sadaie, Chairman of the Hokkaido Radio and Evangelism by Mass Communication Committee (HOREMCO) in Sapporo, related to AVACO, indicates that the results of the initial experiment of comprehensive and intensive use of mass communication methods in two villages in Hokkaido indicate that a great future lies ahead for this type of program.

This initial experiment of the newly-formed HOREMCO committee was carried out March 10-15 in Furen and Shimokawa, villages in northern Hokkaido, with a combined population of nearly 8,000 persons.

The program included spot announcements and five minute messages broadcast by Rev. Sadaie over the local "wire radio" system which reaches into the 2,600 households of the villages; by newspaper advertisements; loud speaker; distribution of leaflets; home visitation by pastors, missionaries and laymen; distribution of evangelistic tracts, two different film evangelism programs with evangelistic tracts, and preaching related to the films; preaching meetings, and children's meetings.

Four Japanese pastors and five missionaries gave leadership besides the enthusiastic support of the two local pastors and their laymen.

The results of the program, according to Rev. Sadaie, were extremely significant, in spite of the fact that farmers were busy with spring planting and the program was carried out without adequate time for advance planning. Eight hundred adults and fourteen hundred children attended the respective meetings, including special film programs held also in the villages of Nayoro and Misono. Two hundred and twenty cards were signed requesting the correspondence course on Christianity or further information of other sorts. Both town and country people attended the meetings, but the local pastors were especially gratified that so many farm people were brought through the door of the church for the first time.

Another notable fact is that the films were not utilized merely to gather a crowd. Each had a distinct evangelistic message and was used together with a short sermon and special tracts to make a distinctive witness.

FIRST HOKKAIDO WORKSHOP BRINGS BIG RESPONSE

The first large-scale Audio-visual workshop to be held on the northern island of Hokkaido under the joint sponsorship of the Sapporo Christian Center and AVACO brought together over 80 church school teachers and pastors representing 11 denominations, May 2-5.

Courses in motion picture projector operation, illuminated kamishibai, picture story and finger puppets were given. In the evening the various techniques were demonstrated by the leaders. Lectures on the use of audio-visuals in Christian education were presented in the morning. On the final evening an "ideal" film evangelism program was presented.

DISTRIBUTION OF CANNED PORK

Recently the Canadian Government made available for distribution overseas a large quantity of surplus canned pork to various agencies in Canada, including the Canadian Council of Churches. Japan was included among the countries to which this pork was to be sent. A few weeks ago a shipment of approximately 450,000 pounds of canned pork arrived in Yokohama consigned to Japan Church World Service for distribution among needy persons here.

The ocean freight on this very large and valuable gift was paid by three organizations. The Dutch Church of Canada paid for two carloads, the Anglican Church in Canada for one, and Church World Service, U.S.A. for six.

Japan Church World Service is preparing now a program of distribution. The tentative plans are as follows:

- 1) 42,000 children in NCSW institutions, throughout Japan
- 2) 5,193 children in other institutions, mainly Christians, throughout Japan
- 3) 45,000 "pioneer farmer" families in northern Japan
- 4) 6,149 families in the Nagoya area who lost the head of the family during the Ise-Wan Typhoon
- 5) 12,000 families to be assisted through local JCWS Committees, including 1,000 families among the unemployed coal miners of northern Kyushu
- 6) 12,000 families of unemployed coal miners to be assisted through the welfare offices of Fukuoka Prefecture
- 7) 600 "pioneer farmer" families in the vicinity of Okunakayama.

